

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 16, 1985

GEORGE N. GRAY
CHAIRMAN

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

January 16, 1985

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

January 16, 1985

Chairman George N. Gray, presiding:

Members Present:

Dr. Jack Cappel
Dr. Donald Hines
Mr. Joe Palmisano
Mr. Mark Roberts
Mr. Dale Vinet

The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was called to order by Chairman George Gray, on Wednesday, January 16, 1985 at 10:00 AM at the Quail Drive Office in Baton Rouge.

A roll call was taken.

A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, seconded by Dr. Cappel, to approve the minutes of December 5, 1984.

Harry Schafer presented the Survey Section Report for the period of November 26-December 28, 1984. During that period, field activity consisted of 125 surveys scheduled, 60 of which were surveyed. Sixty-two (62) applications were unable to be surveyed due to bad weather or low tide, and three applicants failed to appear for survey. Office activity consisted of \$268,775.52 collected for lease rental; \$16,040.60 collected from survey fees; 83 tonnage licenses issued; 51 dredging licenses issued and 7 leases issued.

Jerry Farrar presented the Game Division Report which consisted of general information concerning deer hunting on the wildlife management areas. He stated that this was a successful season with 38,741 hunter efforts checked. He also mentioned that the average cost of a bagged deer is \$565.00.

National Wildlife Week is March 17-23, 1985 and the theme is "Soil--We Can't Grow Without It". The theme is very appropriate for our State with the various soil types from our marshes, bottomlands to the hill country. Each soil type produces various vegetational types which our wildlife depends upon. The better the soil the better the habitat. Both fish and game depend on the soil and its fertility.

Joe Herring presented a resolution to the Commission to proclaim this week as National Wildlife Week in our State. A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, seconded by Dr. Cappel, to adopt the resolution.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the soil is a dynamic ecosystem teeming with plant and animal life; and

WHEREAS, human existence is dependent on people's ability to wisely manage our soil resources for food production; and

WHEREAS, soil provides food and shelter for a great variety of wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, up to 500 years are required to form one inch of new topsoil; and

WHEREAS, our Nation is losing an average of 6.4 billion tons of soil to erosion every year; and

WHEREAS, we all share the responsibility to practice and promote good land management measures that conserve our valuable soil resources; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation has set aside the week of March 17th through March 23rd, 1985, as a time to become more aware of our Nation's soil problems and the importance of soil resources in our daily lives; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, J. Burton Angelle, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, do hereby join the National Wildlife Federation in proclaiming March 17th through March 23rd, 1985, as NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK, urging one and all to unite in support of every activity that will help to conserve and protect our soil resources and thus strongly affirm the vital importance of soil with the theme "SOIL--We Can't Grow Without It".

Joe Herring also informed the Commission on Ducks Unlimited program called MARSH which is Matching Aid to Restore States' Habitat. Louisiana is eligible to receive \$169,501 this year for waterfowl development, purchase of land, anything to enhance waterfowl.

Mr. Gray presented Mr. Farrelly with a plaque.

Ray Montet presented the Monthly Enforcement Report for November, 1984. He also presented a resolution to the Commission to adopt the boating safety regulations. A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, seconded by Dr. Hines to adopt these regulations.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission as per Title 34:851.24F shall prescribe the regulations pertaining to personal floatation devices to be used for each person on board every motorboat or vessel used upon all navigable waterways of the State, and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission as per Title 34:851:24G shall prescribe the regulations pertaining to the number, size and type of fire extinguishers to be carried by each motorboat and vessel operating upon all navigable waterways of the state, and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall prescribe proper standards for flame arrestors through Title 34 Sec. 851.24(H) and for ventilation requirements for boats of closed construction through Title 34 Sec. 851.24(I) on motorboats operating upon the waters of this state, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does propose to adopt the Federal Regulations for personal floatation devices, fire extinguishers, flame arrestors and ventilation as per the attached copy.

Bennie Fontenot presented a resolution to the Commission to adopt the channel catfish minimum size limit. A motion was made by Dr. Hines, seconded by Dr. Cappel, to adopt these regulations.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the existence of high populations of channel catfish in certain areas of Southeastern Louisiana is well documented, and

WHEREAS, fish population data from these areas show that the vast majority of channel catfish are less than 11" total length, and

WHEREAS, biological data indicate that channel catfish in these areas are stunted, relatively short for their age, and frequently found to be sexually mature well below 11" total length, and

WHEREAS, commercial fishermen in these areas have developed markets for "short" catfish and whose catch of channel catfish that are shorter than the 11" minimum total length, and

WHEREAS, the minimum length of 11" has been removed on channel catfish in these areas since 1981 and no detrimental effects have been observed, and

WHEREAS, Act 273 of the 1984 Louisiana Legislature authorizes the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to suspend or reduce by resolution the legal size limit on channel catfish in those areas of the state where biological data indicate that such a suspension or reduction in the size limit would not be detrimental to the resource, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby suspends for a 5 year period from January 1, 1985 to January 1, 1990, the minimum size length limit on channel catfish in that portion of Southeastern Louisiana, containing Lac des Allemands, Lake Salvador, Lake Cataouatche, Lake Maurepas, the western portion of Lake Pontchartrain and associated bayous and streams, excluding the Mississippi River and Bayou LaFourche, herein described as: west and south of the west descending bank of the Mississippi River from the Gulf of Mexico to the Huey P. Long bridge; north and west of Highway 90 from Huey P. Long bridge to Causeway Boulevard; west of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway from U.S. Highway 90 to Louisiana Highway 22; south and east of Louisiana Highway 22 to U. S. Highway 61 at Sorrento; north of U. S. 61 from Sorrento to Louisiana Highway 20; east of Louisiana Highway 20 to the east descending bank of Bayou LaFourche at Thibodaux; east of the east descending bank of Bayou LaFourche to Louisiana Highway 1 at Leeville; east and north of Louisiana Highway 1 from Leeville, to the Gulf of Mexico; north of the Gulf of Mexico from Grand Isle to the west descending bank of the Mississippi River.

Bennie Fontenot presented another resolution to the Commission concerning Cow Island Lake. A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, seconded by Dr. Cappel, to adopt the resolution.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, Cow Island Lake, located in the Atchafalaya Basin in St. Martin Parish, has been a valuable sportsfishing lake for many years, and

WHEREAS, Cow Island Lake in the past was subject to nearly complete dewatering during low flows in the Atchafalaya River, and

WHEREAS, it was determined that the preservation of the lake could only be assured by construction of a permanent weir in the channel through which water ebbs and flows, and

WHEREAS, construction of said weir would maintain a water level necessary to prevent the undesirable conversion of the lake bottom into a willow thicket, and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a permanent weir was due to the foresight and initiative of Mr. Ben Skerrett, III, President of the Greater Atchafalaya Basin Council; and, through the efforts and assistance of the St. Martin Parish Police Jury, and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Public Works, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is on record as commending Mr. Ben Skerrett, III, the St. Martin Parish Jury, and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Public Works, for their contribution to the preservation of Cow Island Lake.

Bennie Fontenot also presented an amendment to the Reciprocal Fishing License Agreement Between the State of Texas and the State of Louisiana. A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, seconded by Dr. Cappel, to accept the amendment.

(The full text of the amendment
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, on the 27th day of September, 1984, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department entered into a Reciprocal Fishing License Agreement whereby each state exempts residents of the other state 65 years of age or older from the sport fishing license requirement; and

WHEREAS, both states now desire to extend this sport fishing license exemption to persons 15 years of age or younger, now

THEREFORE, each state acting herein by and through duly authorized officials and in consideration of the premises, the original agreement is hereby amended with respect to persons exempted as follows:

8. Texas residents 15 years of age or younger may fish in Louisiana waters without a sport fishing license; provided, however, proof of age as set out above is required.

9. Louisiana residents 15 years of age or younger may fish in Texas waters without a sport fishing license; provided, however, proof of age as set out above is required.

A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, seconded by Dr. Cappel, that the April meeting be Tuesday and Wednesday, the 2nd and 3rd in Baton Rouge.

A motion was made by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Dr. Hines, to accept the resolution setting the May meeting for Tuesday and Wednesday, April 30th and May 1 in New Orleans.

(The full text of the amendment
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, RS 56:497 provides all inshore shrimp seasons shall be set by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and

WHEREAS, RS 56:497 also provides that the inshore spring shrimp season shall begin no later than May 25, and

WHEREAS, rules promulgated by the Commission are subject to the Administrative Procedures Act and review and approval by the Legislative Oversight Committee before such rules can be enacted, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission announces its intention to review all data and receive public input relative to setting of the 1985 spring shrimp season on April 30th, now

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries announces its intention to set on May 1, 1985, the opening dates for the 1985 spring shrimp season.

Mr. Gray adjourned the meeting.

The following rules and regulations have been adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission pursuant to Title 34 Sections 851.F(1), 851.G, and 851.H.

I In accordance with Title 34 Section 851.F(1), the following definitions shall apply to the classification of Personal Flotation Devices.

A) P.F.D. Type I, A U.S. Coast Guard Approved flotation device of the wearable design capable of turning most unconscious persons from a face down position without effort from its wearer. This device must provide a minimum buoyancy of 22 pounds in the adult size and a minimum of 11 pounds in the child size.

B) P.F.D. Type II, A U.S. Coast Guard Approved wearable device designed to turn its wearer to a vertical or slightly backward position in the water. Its adult size shall provide a minimum buoyancy of 15½ pounds, the medium child size shall provide a minimum of 11 pounds, and the infant and small child size shall provide a minimum buoyancy of 7 pounds.

C) P.F.D. Type III, A U.S. Coast Guard Approved wearable device designed so the wearers can place themselves in a vertical or slightly backward position. Its adult size shall provide a minimum buoyancy of 15½ pounds, its medium child size shall provide a minimum of 11 pounds and the infant and small child size shall provide a minimum buoyancy of 7 pounds.

D) P.F.D. Type IV, A U.S. Coast Guard Approved device designed to be thrown to a person in the water and grasped, not worn. It shall provide a minimum of 15½ pounds of buoyancy.

E) Regulations prescribed by the Commission as to the type and number of Personal Flotation Devices required on recreational boats while a watercraft is in use on the waters of this State are as follows:

1) Class A watercraft. (less than sixteen (16) feet in length) Shall carry at least one, type I, II, III, or IV Personal Flotation Device for each person on board. The P.F.D. must bear the U.S. Coast Guard approval number and must be of the appropriate sizes.

2) Class I watercraft. (sixteen (16) feet to less than twenty-six (26) feet in length) Shall carry at least one serviceable, type I, II, or III Personal Flotation Device for each person on board and one serviceable type IV Device. The P.F.D.'s must bear the U.S. Coast Guard approval number and must be of the appropriate sizes.

3) Class II watercraft. (twenty six feet (26) to less than forty (40) feet in length) Shall carry at least one serviceable, type I, II, or III Personal Flotation Device for each person on board and one serviceable type IV Device. The P.F.D.'s must bear the U.S. Coast Guard approval number and must be of the appropriate sizes.

4) Class III watercraft. (forty (40) and over) Shall carry at least one serviceable, type I, II, or III for each person on board and one serviceable type IV device. The P.F.D.'s must bear the U.S. Coast Guard approval number and must be of the appropriate size.

F) Every motorboat carrying passengers for hire upon the waters of this state must be equipped with serviceable U.S. Coast Guard approved type I or II Personal Flotation Devices. The number of P.F.D.'s shall be equal to the number of persons being carried and of the appropriate size.

G) For the purpose of this part "Serviceable" Personal Flotation Devices shall mean capable of being properly worn with all straps, snaps, flotation bags, approval labels and limitation notices intact and in working condition.

II In Accordance with Title 34 Section 851.G the Commissions prescribes the following regulations for fire extinguishers on motorboats,

A) All motorboats of closed construction shall carry the appropriate approved fire extinguisher according to its length.

1) Class A, (under 16' ft. in length) At least one approved B-I or 5B type extinguisher.

2) Class I, (sixteen to less than twenty-six feet in length) At least one approved B-I or 5B type extinguisher.

3) Class II (twenty six to less than forty feet in length) At least two approved B-I or two 5B extinguishers or at least one approved B-II or one 6B extinguisher.

4) Class III, (forty feet and above in length) At least three approved B-I or 5B extinguishers or at least one approved B-I, 5B and one approved B-II or 6B extinguishers. When an approved fixed extinguishing system is installed one less B-I or 5B type extinguisher is required.

5) All open motorboats shall be required to carry the same approved fire extinguishers according to class, except that Open motorboats of Outboard design where the construction of such motorboats will not permit the entrapment of explosive or flammable gases or vapors and less than twenty-six feet in length shall not require fire extinguishers.

6) For the purpose of this part, Motorboats of closed construction shall mean any motorboat that has one or more of the following conditions.

1. Inboard engine
2. Closed compartments under thwarts and seats wherein portable fuel tanks are stored.
3. Double bottoms not sealed to the hull or which are not completely filled with Flotation materials,
4. Closed living spaces.
5. Closed storage compartments in which combustible or flammable material is stored,
6. Permanently installed fuel tanks.

7) The term "Approved" for this part shall mean Certified by the U.S. Coast Guard and bearing the U.S. Coast Guard approval number or UL (Underwriters Laboratory) seal listing its approval for marine use.

8) All fire extinguishers must be maintained in proper working order and fully charged.

III The following regulations are prescribed by the commission pertaining to flame arrestors or backfire traps.

A) Every motorboat shall have the carburetor or carburetors of every engine (except outboard engines) using gasoline as fuel, equipped with a U.S. Coast Guard approved device so labeled and emplaced as to prevent danger of backfire.

IV The following regulations are prescribed by the commission pertaining to the requirements of ventilation of boats of closed construction.

A) Every motorboat, (except open boats) using as fuel any liquid of a volatile nature shall be equipped with a ventilation system consisting of at least two ventilation ducts fitted with cowls. One of the ducts must be designated as an exhaust duct and installed so as to extend to the lower portion of the bilge. Another is to be designated as the intake duct and be so installed to a point below the level of the carburetor air intake. This system will be acceptable as will any U.S. Coast Guard approved system, however either system must be maintained in proper working order.